An Essay on

The Practice of Medicine

Respectfully Submitted
to the Faculty of the

Homœopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania

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by

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The Practice of Medicine, or the Healing Art, has existed from the earliest ages of the world. It dates its origin from the time, when

"Man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought Death into the world and all our woe."

Since then, it has been practiced, more or less, among all nations and tongues of every grade, to the present time; and will continue its healing influences, until sickness, sorrow and death, shall pass away.

Very little is recorded concerning medicine, among the Antediluvians: we know that they were subject to disease and death, and, of course, used medicine; and, if we may be permitted to judge

the causes from the effects; we must come to the conclusion, that Homoeopathy was the only practice then known; for, with any other practice, how could it be possible to account for the extreme age of all the patriarchs before the flood, whose names have been recorded in the sacred writings. If Allopathy could have been introduced in practice then; Methuselah, instead of living nine hundred and sixty nine years; would have been drugged to death before he saw one hundred years: and had its practice continued to the time of Noah, it would, through the agency of its yellow fevers, Cholera, or some other of its plagues, have been almost as destructive as the Deluge itself.

But, it was not till after the flood, that Allopathy first made its appearance; Noah planted a vineyard, manufactured wine, took an allopathic dose thereof, which gave him the drug symptoms, he became drunk.

Homoeopathy seems to have been practiced among the Jews, in the time of Moses; while Allopathy insideously worked its way until the "Dark Ages;" when, together with Superstetion and heresy, it became triumphant; and Homoeopathy, with virtue and true religion, was banished; for, then, men loved darkness better than light.

But as the glorious Sun arising in the East, sheds light and gladness over the face of the world, and banishes

darkness and gloom far away:- and as the great Reformation of the Sixteenth Century dispelled the darkness of Superstition and heresy, and Spread pure religion and Virtue all over the world:- So the Immortal Hahnemann, the great medical Reformer, disclosed the glorious principle of "Similia Similibus Curantur" to the great consolation and joy of suffering humanity;- to the confusion, and, as we hope, to the final overthrow of Allopathy.

But although the light of truth has arisen over our world; there are yet, dark hiding places where Error still lurks, like the gloomy bat, or the hideous owl, hating the light of day. But Truth is mighty, and, by means of Science, her all-powerful battering ram,

will soon demolish every strong hold that stands in opposition; and banish Error into its original nothingness.

Allopathy arranges all diseases in classes, the classes into orders, the orders into genera, the genera into Species. It also arranges the drugs and other articles under different heads; as Antiphlogistics Antispasmodics, Tonics, Astringents, Stimulants, Antilithics, Escharotics, Rubefaciants, Counter-irritants, Vesicants, Emetics, Cathartics, Expectorants, Diuretics Diaphoretics, Alteratives, Emmenagogues, Sialagogues, Sinagogues, Refrigerants, &c.

When a practitioner of this System undertakes to cure a disease, he, first, has to find out to what Class, Order, Genus, and Species it belongs; he

then applies the treatment, that happens to be the most fashionable at the time. If the Antiphlogistic be adopted, he, according to Clutterbuck, opens a vein, to find out the State of the blood; if it be unhealthy, it is well and good to have it away; if healthy, well and good, it cannot be helped, no harm is done. If he supposes the Stomach or bowels to be the den of the enemy; he gives an Emetic, a Cathartic, or a compound of both, and scours the alimentary canal from the top to the bottom, opens wide the pores of the Skin, pumps out the Urine by the gallon; - So that the disease can have no possible chance of remaining in any part of the System: - it is driven out, sometimes, with such a vengeance, that

the disease and the life itself are both driven out together.

An Allopathic practitioner may be compared to a general with his army marching to the relief of a besieged city. He advances; — he sees the enemy (the symptoms) guarding the different positions; but, instead of taking advantage, and using the best means (medicines) in his power, to cut off every enemy (symptom) that advances; as a good General (a Homœopath) would; - he holds a council with his officers (Symptoms) to find out whether it be an Emperor, King, Duke, Sultan, Dey, President, Commodore, General, Captain Pirate, or what, that directs the besieging army; — After a long consultation, he comes to a conclusion, (but whether it be

true or false, he is not certain); - he then watches the motions of the enemy, to find out, whether, in the front, rear, middle, right or left, the commander is to be found; - having guessed also at this; he prepares his bombshells, which are made of the most destructive articles he knows of, well compounded together, so that it may explode, and cut upwards (~~centrically~~), downwards (cathartically) and in all directions; so that if it does not destroy the arch-enemy (disease); it may, at least, set fire to, and destroy the city (the patient), and so, by this means, disperse the enemy (symptoms).

Homoeopathy, like every true science, is based upon fixed and unalterable principles. Each drug, in the Materia

Medica has a record of Symptoms, peculiar to itself, which it produces on persons in health; and, when given to a diseased person, whose Symptoms correspond to those of the drug; the Symptoms of the disease vanish, and the patient is restored to health.

A Homeopathic physician may be compared to David, with his Shepherd's bag (medicine case), Sling and Stone (medicated pellets); attacking Goliah (disease); — although the giant be armed and shielded from head to foot; the small Stone (dose) from the Sling, infinitesimal, as it may appear, does its work in the true Homeopathic manner; — it destroys the disease.

At the present day, the Practice of

Medicine ranks high among the arts and Sciences throughout the world. Medical Schools and colleges are found everywhere. Our own City Stands the first in the Union in the number and character of her Medical Institutions: — Students from all the different States, and other parts of North and South America; and Some, even from the Old World, come to our city to Study the Science of Medicine. The University, the first Allopathic School, is the oldest in the United States. The Jefferson, the Second Allopathic School in this city, has now become the most celebrated; its professors are all of great reputation as Teachers and writers. The Pennsylvania, the Third in Number, is a Split from the Jefferson, it began vigorously, and, for a time, did well; it now does as well as it can.

The Philadelphia, allopathic School, number four, grows downwards, like the cow's tail.

There are three other Allopathic Schools, but of a lower grade; two of them are of the feminine Gender, the other is the Eclectic; very little is known concerning them.

Amidst these different Institutions, like a light Shining in a dark place;- Stands The Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania. Year after year, it has gone on prospering, in Spite of all opposition. It now stands firmly, as on a rock, with its banner Similia Similibus Curantur, with its Seven Professors, giants in intellect, and lions in Courage;- So that finally, it will, without doubt, not only become greater than any Allopathic School in this City; but, like Aaron's rod, it will

swallow them up.

The Graduates of the Allopathic School scatter themselves over the land, like the plague of locusts; and commence their antiphlogistic and other pernicious ravages; with their lancets, Calomel, blue-pill, lapis infernis, tooth-pullers, burning-irons &c. So that disease is, not only, not bettered, but made worse and worse; leaving behind, Toothlessness, Itch, Baldness, Rheumatism, Ague, Galloping Consumption, Cholera, Yellow Fever &c: — While Homoeopathic Physicians as they graduate, scatter themselves over the land, as healthy granulations over a diseased body, causing health and comfort: — driving out the Allopaths, as pus from an Abscess, or excretions from the other parts of the body.

Self-made Doctors, or those who practice without any Authority, are found almost everywhere, humbugging the Community, under the name of Thomsonian physician, Electropathic physician, Hydropathic physician, &c.; They are all allopaths of a low grade. The Thomsonian, if he does not blister nor bleed, pukes and sweats out disease; the Electropath drives out all diseases with the positive pole, or knocks them in with the negative pole of his mighty battery; the Hydropath washes and soaks out disease, with his baths, wet sheets, and blankets.

The Science of Humbugging, belongs more properly to the System of making Patent Medicine; such as Brandreth's pills, Wights Indian vegetable pills.

Swaims panacea, Dr. Jaynes Vermifuge, Alterative Sanative pills &c. Dr. John Bulls Sarsaparilla, Old Dr. Townsend's Sarsaparilla, Young Dr. Townsend's Sarsaparilla, Hobensack's worm Syrup (every dose is sure to fetch a worm 50 or 60 feet long,) Nuttall's Syriacum (cures all incurable cases of Consumption), Watts Magnetic Sugar, Dr. Schwaumpf's Vegetable, Electro-magnetic, Sugar coated pills, (which, when taken into the Stomach

Explodes with a thundering sound,

The lightning flies up, the thunder rolls down.)

But the time would fail me to tell the names of all the never failing remedies that are bottled up, and labelled for Sale all over the country. These medicines are termed patent, from the Latin word pateo to open; because, the mouth had to be

forced open by an instrument, and the dose rammed down the throat, in the same manner that a gun or cannon is charged, that is, when the patient is aware of the composition of the medicine, as in old times; now the plan is, to compound the pill or dose, coat it with sugar, let no one know its composition, and in this way it is swallowed without force.

I might, if I had time, give the composition of several patent medicines, that I copied from one of their books, I have room for one only: Riverius p. 516. "Take 20 skin'd vipers, steep them in spirits of salt; then add of white Dittany of Crete, Tormentil, Bistort, Swallowort, Scorzonera, each 1 oz. Of white generous wine, a sufficient quantity to stand 2 inches above the ingredients; let them digest in horse-dung 8 days: after that boil them in the same glass vessel 2 hours in hot water, then strain and

squeeze it, burn the faeces & draw out the salt; what remains is purified twice with the white of eggs & put again in warm water for 30 days, & by that time it will be red as blood." Other compounds, such as, dead men's skulls pounded up, Toads, lizard's eyes, cock's blood, boiled gold, and other abominable things are used for this patent medicine: And this accounts for the immense profits, realized by all who engage in such business. If Bologna sausages, mince meat, &c be made of dead dogs and cats, it is easy to know what becomes of the refuse, it is all used up in the patent medicine; nothing is lost. Some of the wealthiest men of this city, have made their fortunes by this business alone. It is still a very profitable business.

But a brighter day is beginning to

dawn upon us; - Homoeopathy is rapidly gaining ground; - The arts and sciences are advancing and rooting out ignorance and old fashioned prejudices. Allopathy is continually changing. Doctors who practice it, must soon, either, turn Homoeopaths, if they wish to continue in practice, or learn some other profession to make a living.

Apothecaries will be obliged to sell segars, perfumery, toys, apples, ice cream, lucifer matches, &c. instead of compounding drugs, making pills, &c. or like Shakspeare's apothecary, they will be

"meagre in their looks,
Sharp misery has worn them to the bones."

Happy will be the time, when Allopathy and its Drug Shops, Grog Shops, Tobacco Shops, and other Shops are banished from the world; and Homoeopathy become the only law of cure: — then, instead of sickness, pain & poverty, we will always have smiling health, peace & prosperity.

Amen.